

Memo to the Files

~~July 2, 1970~~

Peter Dodd

Subject: International Computer Center

Conversation today with Dr. Ed David of Bell Laboratories, who is US rep to July 9 meeting in Paris on International Computer Center, with me, Herman Chinn, and Nelson Sievering.

Idea for the Center was developed in the NATO Science Committee, <sup>has generated</sup> ~~as just stated~~ over the last several years, and is now ready to see the light of day as an independent organization cut loose from NATO. The basic idea for the Center is the establishment of an international core of computer scientists to (1) ~~receive and disseminate~~ current and advanced computer soft wear technology, ~~and~~ (2) disseminate these technologies to national computer centers in the European member countries, and (3) provide technical assistance to the national centers in the utilization of these technologies. The ideas call for a continuing relationship with centers of advanced computer technology in the US.

Interested European countries under the chairmanship of France, <sup>the</sup> ~~11~~ convening an organizational meeting in Paris on July 9. US will be represented by Dr. David and Dr. <sup>PETER</sup> ~~Peret~~, Science Counselor, Embassy Paris. The Europeans will be, of course, involving the US in establishment and operation of the Center, especially as regards personnel and the making of US computer soft wear technology available. At the discussion this morning

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it was agreed that it is in the US interest (1) to support the establishment of the Center, and (2) that the US should play an active but limited role in its organization and operation. It was further agreed that we could not foresee the commitment of US funds in the foreseeable future, and that several questions concerning the transfer of technology have to be answered. Dr. David was requested to express US support for the idea and to attempt to ascertain to what extent US assistance are desired by the Europeans and is necessary to the Center's successful operation.

Possible topics on the agenda for the July 9 meeting:

- (1) Designation of a host country and selection of a site.
- (2) Designation of national centers that participate.
- (3) Discussion of how organizational work is to proceed, i.e. will a planning group be established for this purpose, and who its members supposed to be?
- (4) Discussion of the possibility of countries' membership with less than full participation (with reference to US, as well as other European countries, who might only wish to participate in limited ways).
- (5) Selection of director.

All members of NATO who participated in the study under NATO auspices have been invited to attend the July 9 meeting. Only Denmark has declined to attend so far. France and Germany have expressed the strongest interest in the project to date, and both have offered sites for the Center (the Germans would

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locate it at Munich; the French probably at Grenoble). The UK and Italy have expressed an interest in something less than full membership and participation. Including the cost of national centers, estimates are a total cost for all the members would be on the order of \$2.5-3 million a year.

Several possibilities have been considered as ways in which the US could participate. Experts and senior students might be made available to the Center with either NSF or Fulbright fellowships; seminars conducted by the Center in both Europe and the US that would include American participants; and contractual arrangements with American experts to be paid by the Center. A particular American, Professor Barton of the University of Utah, has been recommended for the directorship and has expressed an interest in it.

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